FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOURCE CLAIMS PEACEFUL AIM IN MARINES' LANDING

PY182207 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2123 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (NA) -- This afternoon a source at San Martin Palace admitted that Argentine Marines had landed on an island in the Beagle Channel which Chile claims as its own, but explained that they had landed with the "purpose of repairing a beacon which was out of order."

The source refrained from giving any further information and pointed out that "an official report will be issued through the office of the commander in chief of the Navy."

Foreign Ministry Studies Chile Note

PY182339 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2255 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (TELAM) -- San Martin Palace is studying a note submitted by Chile on the incident that has reportedly taken place on an island close to Picton Island in the Beagle Channel. Chile issued a communique on the incident.

Foreign Ministry sources made the above comment, adding that Chilean Charge d'Affaires Raul Schmidt reportedly handed over the note to Arnoldo Listre, director general of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry, this afternoon.

The communique issued by the Chilean Defense Ministry, which became known here through an international news agency report, states that "last Tuesday, at 1531, an Argentine torpedo boat anchored next to the largest island of the Chilean Hermanos Islands and landed several men. The island is located 2 km northeast of Picton Island, close to the Beagle Channel."

Navy Communique Issued

PY190043 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0007 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (TELAM) -- The Argentine Navy has issued a communique clarifying the alleged landing of Argentine troops in the Dos Hermanos Islands, close to Picton Island. The communique explains that only two men disembarked for 10 minutes because the Barranqueras boat experienced some navigational difficulties.

The note, released by the Navy headquarters, reads: "At approximately 1530 on 16 August 1983, the Barranqueras boat, which sails under the orders of the Southern Naval Command, experienced some navigational difficulties while on a routine patrol in the Beagle Channel.

"Under those circumstances, the boat had to take to more calm waters close to the Hermanos Islands, where two men landed to anchor the boat, staying on the ground for about 10 minutes.

"When the problem was solved, the boat continued on its mission, sailing toward the port of Ushuaia."

PAPER SAYS UK 'USURPS' TERRITORIAL WATERS

PY181712 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Aug 83 p 1 section 2

[Editorial: "The Monopoly of Force"]

[Text] In light of the fundamental principles of international coexistence, the recent acts of aggression by the British air and naval forces against Argentine fishing boats, in the so-called "exclusion zone" established unilaterally by the government of the colonialist power in Argentine jurisdictional waters, have absolutely no justification.

The reaction of our Foreign Ministry, which presented the appropriate protest to the United Nations, is therefore fitting.

With a de facto end to hostilities between the two nations, it is unacceptable that the so-called maritime exclusion zone has been maintained for more than a year in open violation of Argentine rights over our territorial waters. During the course of the war, the military forces of the invading country were able to impose a blockade on a given region. When the war ended, however, this blockade became an illegal usurpation.

But even admitting the hypothetical existence of a risk -- which is surely nonexistent -- that the conflict could be unleashed again, the blockade should be limited only to strategic aspects of military nature. By no means should it be extended -- as in the case we are discussing here -- to the peaceful activity of our fishing boats. The intimidating aggression against these fishing boats constitutes an arbitrary action of arrogance which discredits and embarrasses the government that has authorized such action.

The situation becomes, however, even more unjust if we take into account the fact that the reprehensible actions against our fishing boats represents an open discrimination against our country. This is so obvious because simultaneously with the expulsion of the Argentine fishing boats, Polish and other foreign fishing boats remained in the zone in an astonishing display of tolerance by the British forces. Such a discriminatory position, which apparently can only be dictated by a kind of revanchist spirit unworthy of any civilized nation, is demeaning to the authorities themselves who consent or encourage such actions.

Incidents of this nature -- the seriousness and magnitude of which cannot pass unnoticed -- reduce the possibility of carrying out serious negotiations on the Malvinas issue. Both Argentina and the international community expect the beginning of formal negotiations as a result of the resolutions approved at international political forums. The responsibility, then, for possibly preventing negotiations will surely fall upon the nation that provokes such a situation, that is, Great Britain. And the truth is in fact far away if the distorted objective of preventing, or at least delaying, the peaceful solution of the conflict lies behind these illegal aggressions.

The distressing impression provoked by these events is that the monopoly of force is reserved exclusively for the powerful states, for whom any attack or abuse seems to be permitted, while those less powerful are only left with the uncertain and usually illusory resort to diplomatic protest or complaint. In this context, our government's decision is to be praised because the foreign minister has announced the firm decision to continue struggling untiringly for the recognition of our usurped sovereignty, which sooner or later will have to be admitted.

POLAND TO RECEIVE SHIPS, ASKS TRADE PRIORITY

PY182118 Paris AFP in Spanish 1459 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Aug (AFP) -- The Argentina Government has officially notified a visiting Polish mission, presided over by Maritime Economy Minister Jerzy Korzonek, of Argentina's sovereign rights over an area in the South Atlantic where Polish fishing ships are operating.

The official notification is related to the activities that foreign ships are carrying out near the Malvinas Islands, which are occupied by British troops, and over which Argentina claims sovereignty.

In October, the Secretariat of Maritime Interests (SEIM) will deliver to Poland the first grain freighter built in Argentine shipyards for an East European country. This is a 27,000-ton ship, the first of four that the Polish Government has ordered from Argentine shipyards.

For their part, the Polish officials requested the Argentine Government to consider the possibility of giving Polish shipping lines priority in the transportation generated by Argentine trade. This request is based on international treaties which specify that countries having advanced naval industry techniques may grant privileges for transporting trade to ships built in their shipyards.

GOVERNMENT RAISES 'RATES,' FREEZES PRICES 16 AUG

PY180107 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] The government decreed a virtual freeze on prices last night, hours before announcing the new rates for utilities, transport, and fuels, in force as from midnight.

Fuel prices were increased by 19.8 percent, bringing the price of premium petrol to $a 4.29 a litre, and that of regular petrol to $a 3.87. It was also reported that the price of lubricating oil was increased by 35 percent.

Natural gas and electric power rates have increased by eight percent, which according to the official statement is only "about half of what would be technically correct," as a reported token of goodwill toward the church social pastoral work team, with which the government is holding a round of talks on the emergency socioeconomic situation.

Urban bus rates were increased by 12 percent to a minimum of $a 1.40, while the minimum train ticket increased by 13 percent to $a 2.60. Postage rates will also be adjusted tomorrow, when the minimum mailing charge will rise to $a 0.90.

The government yesterday decreed a virtual freeze on prices by repealing resolution 279, which authorized controlled price increases for 1,000 leading companies. That resolution bound those companies to eight percent monthly price increases until October 15, and seven percent increases thereafter until December 15.

Resolution 923, which replaced 279, says that the companies will be compensated for this virtual ban on price increases by the financial measures that were put into effect on August 11, i.e. lower, related interest rates.

REPORT ON ASSISTANCE, DAMAGE IN FLOODED AREAS

PY180403 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Ceibas, Entre Rios, 17 Aug (DYN) -- According to information released by the northeastern emergency military command, more than half of the Mesopotamia area is under water as a result of the flooding of rivers. This has caused more than $800 million in damage.

Brigadier General Alberto Lucena, deputy commander of the emergency zone, held a press conference here yesterday to disclose information on the damage caused by floods and on the assistance granted to the persons affected by them. The press conference was aimed at refuting "mistaken opinions and emotional subjective appraisals."

In the detailed report issued by the deputy commander of the emergency zone, it is stated that the six provinces of the littoral affected by the flooding are affected as follows: Formosa, 60 percent of its land (covering the areas of greater agricultural production); Chaco, 45 percent; Misiones, 89 percent (covering the most productive areas); Corrientes, 65 percent (covering plantations); Entre Rios, 25 percent; and Santa Fe, 10 percent.

Estimated losses amount to $800 million, of which $280 million is in the agriculture and livestock sector. However, General Lucena pointed out that "these figures are not final" since they do not include the expenditures and investments made in flood defense systems and assistance granted to the affected people, nor do they include the estimated additional losses which will only be verified after the waters recede.

BRIEFS

RADIO LICENSES AWARDED -- Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA) -- Through Decree 2008, the executive branch awarded the license to operate LR6 Radio Mitre of Buenos Aires to the firm Radiocultura S.A., which is made up of Pablo Gowland, Alberto Cordero, Carlos Fioroni, Julio Moyano, Victor Dapice, Horacio de la Canal, and Joaquin Oteiza. The decree provides that the 15-year license can be renewed for an additional 10-year period. Through Decree 2007, the executive branch awarded the license to operate a new radio in San Carlos de Bariloche to Francisco Jose Cabrera. The 20-year license can be renewed for an additional 10-year period. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1432 GMT 10 Aug 83 PY]

BRAZILIAN PILOTS TO TRAIN — It has been reported that Brazilian pilots will be trained in Argentina on how to land on ice as part of their training for their Antarctic mission. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 12 Aug 83 PY]

HIGHWAY BRIDGE TO PARAGUAY -- The executive branch has approved Law No 22,870, authorizing the construction by Argentina of a bridge that will join (Mision La Paz) in Argentina and Pozo Hondo in Paraguay, and a highway in Paraguayan territory joining San Ignacio and Itapiru. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 9 Aug 83 PY]

INTRANATIONAL DIRECT DIALING SERVICE — The (Ceres) direct dialing central has begun operating in Santa Fe Province. The central can serve up to 3,000 phone lines. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Aug 83 PY]

PRESIDENT MAY SOON SWEAR IN NEW CABINET

PY191254 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] President Siles Zuazo may swear in his new cabinet within a few hours after the government answers the COB emergency proposal that was submitted a few weeks ago.

Panamericana has learned that only the foreign, finance, and planning ministers will be changed while the other members of the cabinet will be confirmed in their posts.

FORMER PRESIDENT CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT

PY172257 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] The Armed Forces of the nation are deeply concerned about the current domestic political, economic, and social situation. Former President David Padilla Arancibia made this statement during an interview he granted to Radio Panamericana this morning.

General Padilla maintains that the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] cannot govern the country because that would be against the constitution. When referring to the concern felt by the Armed Forces, he stated:

[Begin recording] During some private talks that I have had, the members of the Armed Forces stated they are very concerned about the difficult situation which the Bolivian people are now experiencing.

Well, as I said, I believe, as the private businessmen's group said before, that it was the organization that proposed the road toward democracy, and now it is really saying the opposite, that is, that the Armed Forces should return to govern this country. Whose fault is it? That of the politicians who are now ruling Bolivia.

[Question] As a former president, would you like to issue a challenge to the rulers and citizens?

[Answer] I would say that the time has come once and for all for everyone to think of Bolivia; everyone should unite to end the tremendous crisis we are living through. [end recording]

Gen Padilla went on to say that the present government officials are responsible for destabilizing the democratic process. He also regarded the economic program submitted by the COB as unacceptable and unattainable.

[Begin recording] I just said that it actually goes against the democratic process, which cost the Bolivian people so much pain to have restored. And what is really regrettable is that the government officials themselves are destabilizing it. Nobody else is to blame.

[Question] General, what is your opinion regarding the government program that has been proposed by the COB in order to join the government at the executive branch level?

[Answer] In this first place, I believe that the COB is not charged with ruling the country. This would be against the Constitution. In addition, the program that the COB has forwarded, especially in the economic field, is actually unacceptable and unattainable. It would mean forfeiting commitments that the government has made to international agencies. I don't believe that Bolivia or other countries can cope without the IMF.

[Question] Don't you believe that this could be an excuse for the COB to step aside and avoid being taken seriously, a pretext for saying that they have made a real proposal?

[Answer] I believe that Dr Siles must manage this situation very carefully, because what they have proposed is something that cannot be taken into account; but they will say, when the government does not accept it, that they did make the proposal and that its rejection prevents them from participating in the government. [end recording]

Then the former president said that currently there is complete misrule. The country is irresponsibly governed, General Padilla added. He also criticized the make-up of the new cabinet.

[Begin recording] Well, as everyone living through and experiencing the present situation knows, never before has the country been in such bad shape due to the lack of leadership and the lack of patriotism of our political leaders. Moreover, the country is in bad shape due to the unpatriotic behavior of the Bolivian congressmen who fail to concur on how to save the country from so many woes.

[Question] Another matter that was discussed is that the president, after more than 4 months, has so far failed to appoint a cabinet to rule the country.

[Answer] Really, this is something that alarms not only the Bolivian people but also the international community. A country cannot be ruled this way, with such a lack of responsibility and ability. Also, people are enduring the high cost of living every day. There are no authorities to put an end to this. The mayors and their superiors, who are responsible for the people's economy, have done nothing positive so far. What is known is that at various levels there is a lack of patriotism and good sense to run the country. [end recording]

We have heard the words of the former president, General David Padilla Arancibia.

DYNAMITE ATTACK PERPETRATED AGAINST FSB

FY181701 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] party board has denounced the dynamite attack that was perpetrated against FSB headquarters on Tuesday at 2300.

The FSB party board has issued a communique stating that the FSB will not give up its commitments to the Bolivian people, and those who strive to harass those whose only guilt is to defend the rights of the have-nots and to pursue the well-being of our fellow citizens should know that we will be unyielding in our struggle.

ARGENTINE BOAT LANDS MEN ON HERMANOS ISLAND

Defense Ministry Communique

PY182020 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] A communique released by the national news agency ORBE states that an Argentine gunboat landed yesterday, Wednesday, on the largest of the Chilean Hermanos Islands. According to a report released by National Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal, several men landed on the island. The minister added that Chile will lodge the appropriate protest with the Argentine Government.

The communique released by the Defense Ministry states: On Wednesday, 16 August [as heard], at approximately 1531, an Argentine torpedo boat docked on one of the largest of the Chilean islands called the Hermanos Islands, and landed several men.

The Hermanos Islands are located 2,000 meters northwest of Picton Island, which has been confirmed as belonging to Chile by the arbitration of Her Royal Highness issued on 2 May 1977.

The official communique adds that it should be remembered that the Chilean-Argentine treaty was submitted to arbitration in 1902, that such arbitration took place, and that in its 13th article states, quote, the decision is unquestionable and its fulfillment has been entrusted to the honor of the nations that signed this pact, unquote.

The official communique released by the Defense Ministry adds that at 1550, when a Chilean naval helicpoter flew over the area, the Argentine crew members returned to their boat, which withdrew to the north. The Chilean Foreign Ministry will lodge the appropriate protest with the Argentine Government, and will inform Pope John Paul II about this new incident.

Foreign Minister's Comments

PY190150 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0107 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 19 Aug (EFE) -- Today, Chilean Foreign Minister Miguel Schweitzer confirmed that the Chilean Embassy to the Argentine Government had delivered an "energetic note of protest" because of the landing of Argentine Marines on one of the Hermanos Islands in the Beagle Channel.

The minister pointed out that this incident "proves the need to sign a peace treaty, because this type of incident, which fortunately did not get out of hand, could do so at some time."

He stated that the note of protest submitted by Chile was not made known to the Chilean public immediately because "it is the Foreign Ministry's policy to act and to do things quietly and not in a spectacular manner."

Schweitzer added that the landing last Tuesday of men on one of the Hermanos Islands, 2 km northeast [as received] of Picton Island -- one of the three islands in dispute by the two countries -- "was transitory and, as Defense Minister Vice Admiral Carvajal pointed out, Chilean helicopters flew over the area, the men returned to the vessel, and then left the islands."

He added that "in view of the importance and seriousness of the incident," he gave instructions to present a note of protest, and that, this has already been done in Argentina. Also "because of the importance and seriousness of the problem, we have decided to inform the Holy See about it."

By common agreement reached between the government of Santiago and Buenos Aires, Pope John is acting as the mediator of the southern border dispute.

SWEDISH CRITICISM REJECTED; MARXISTS BLAMED

PY181446 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1040 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Santiago, 18 Aug (EFE) -- Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has announced measures to reduce the unemployment level. These measures will be explained today by the proper ministers. General Pinochet also made charges against communism for its involvement in the recent violent incidents that took place in Santiago and in other cities throughout the country.

The president noted that "the political opposition sector has taken off its mask and shown that it is not seeking any solutions, that it is not interested in solving the people's problems, but in exploiting the situation to subvert constitutional order." He criticized the Communist Party, which "with its terrorist strategy is responsible for the loss of many lives and for the destruction caused."

According to Pinochet, "the enemies of the government have taken advantage of the natural discontent that the recession has caused among the people to instigate, on four occasions, vandalism and destruction in our cities, as a result of which several people were killed in the more modest neighborhoods of Santiago and Valparaiso."

Pinochet wondered: "If we had not taken the proper preventive measures, how much damage would have been done?" He also charged that Marxism is striving to drive a wedge within the Armed Forces.

Meanwhile, the Swedish charge d'affaires in Chile, Jan Karlsson, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry where he was officially informed about the formal protest lodged by the Chilean Government in view of recent statements issued by the Swedish Government regarding the situation in Chile. The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the Swedish statement "is completely unacceptable."

As for the summons that Chilean Ambassador to Madrid Mariano Fontecilla received from the Spanish Foreign Ministry regarding the recent incidents in Chile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Oscar Fuentes noted that "there have been contacts, but relations between the two countries are normal."

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON 'FOREIGN CONCERN'

PY181518 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has issued a communique regarding expressions of concern which have been voiced abroad about questions pertaining to Chile's internal affairs.

This is the text of the communique: In view of reactions abroad concerning Chile, the position of the Foreign Ministry has already been made public and reiterated on several occasions. Considering the concern and interest which friendly countries express regarding the Chilean situation, this ministry will be receptive to them, and it will make public, as it has been doing both in Santiago and abroad, all the information necessary to shed light upon the real implications of the problems and upon the solutions proposed and adopted by the government as regards those problems.

The concern and interest referred to above are appreciated by this ministry. It notes, however, that its attitude is different toward cases in which, to serve strictly political interests, rash and unnecessary statements are made about questions pertaining to Chile's internal affairs, which must be treated with respect.

That is the communique which has been released by the Foreign Ministry.

PINOCHET ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

PY182300 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Santiago -- President Augusto Pinochet has announced the implementation of a 10-point plan to fight unemployment, a social problem that is affecting nearly one third of the Chilean work force and that is regarded as one of the main reasons for the protest actions which have resulted in repression and death. Speaking to a women's organization presided over by his own wife, Pinochet announced that the plan will permit the creation of 80,000 jobs. There are approximately 1,200,000 unemployed persons in Chile. The plan includes:

The construction of 6,000 houses for low income families.
The call for bids for construction projects on state-owned land.
The implementation of a 40,000-hectare forestation program.
The implementation of a work program for agricultural technicians.
The construction of highways in Santiago and in Valparaiso, the main Chilean port.
The implementation of new public works projects throughout the country.
The implementation of investment projects in state-owned copper mines.
The opening of credit lines for the development of small-size enterprises in the mining sector.
The granting of loans to encourage the hiring of workers and to alleviate the effects of the industrial sector's indebtedness.
The improvement of health conditions in poorer areas.

The unemployment problem worsened after last Thursday's fourth day of protest against the military regime, in which 24 persons died of bullet wounds. In the speech he delivered to a women's organization in Santiago yesterday, Pinochet charged that "the enemies of the government" are taking advantage of the crisis and of "the natural discontent provoked by recession."

Central Bank sources told REUTERS yesterday that there are indications that the Chilean balance-of-payments deficit will be lower than expected in 1983, thus giving the government more chances for action. Finance Minister Carlos Caceres recently signed an agreement with Chile's international creditors. Under this agreement, Chile obtained a new $1.3-billion loan for 1983, along with commercial credits, and renegotiated its foreign debt obligations falling due in 1983 and 1984.

The agreement has the blessing of the IMF, which at the end of July stated that Chile was complying with the conditions attached to the $875-million loan that it received in early 1983. However, bankers and economists pointed out that the conditions imposed by the IMF will prevent an economic expansion which could substantially reduce the unemployment rate. In their opinion, the government will not be able to attain its goal of reducing unemployment to 15 percent by the end of the year unless it resorts to job programs or temporary work.

UNION LEADERS CREATE 'COORDINATING SECRETARIAT'

PY180326 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p C-2

[Text] On hundred and fifty labor leaders from different parts of the country -- on behalf of 85 unions -- have created a "union coordinating secretariat for labor unity." According to its spokesmen, the secretariat expoects that "the labor leadership will inform all workers of its actions and will call upon them to join the labor movement."

During a press conference held yesterday, Luis Droguett, president of the "Sur Cordillera Union Federation" and of the CIMET [expansion unknown] trade union, gave details of the documents drafted during a recent meeting of labor leaders in Punta de Tralca. He stressed that "we have no experience in labor union struggle, but we have our concerns."

He then read excerpts of the documents dealing with issues like "the labor movement and the national crisis; the way to unity; mechanisms of coordination; and the program and platform of the labor movement."

The documents underline the need for a labor movement that could strengthen its ranks, achieve unity, and renew its forces. They also indicate that the secretariat will not be a nationwide organization.

According to the documents, workers are not seeking to replace the Old Single Worker Federation, although they expect to create an organization of the same magnitude.

The documents also criticize the current labor leadership "because they represent only 10 percent of union members, they do not communicate with rank and file leaders, they do not work for the unity of the labor movement, and they issue communiques that they send to rank-and-file leaders only for signature."

According to Droguett, the Copper Federation "woke us from a 10-year sleep, because union organizations had been too isolated."

STUDENTS SEEK U.S. AID, DEMONSTRATE AT CONSULATE

PY182113 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2011 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 18 Aug (EFE) -- Some 100 students staged a demonstration in front of the U.S. Consulate today. They were asking for U.S. help for the Chilean democratization process. The demonstrators threw leaflets and displayed a banner with expressions against the regime of Augusto Pinochet. The demonstration, which for some minutes caused a traffic jam, ended when the Carabineros forces appeared.

On the other hand, it was learned here today that some doctors have reported that the police used torture on 11 and 12 August, the day of protest against the regime of General Pinochet. The doctors underlined the psychological effects of torture on children and their mothers after they had to go through several hours of tension arising from the clashes and shooting. Doctors reported bullet wounds, serious contusions, burns, and bites by police dogs.

POLICE ARREST 20 STUDENTS IN VALPARAISO RIOTS

PY181402 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1345 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Neuquen, 18 Aug (TELAM) -- Last evening in Valparaiso, Carabineros units broke up a street demonstration staged by Catholic University students. The police used teargas and antiriot teams, at whom some of the demonstrators hurled various objects while others burned tires and lit bonfires around the university.

This information was provided by Radio Cooperativa of Santiago, heard in Neuquen today. The radio station added that approximately 20 students were arrested, while the rest of the demonstrators sought refuge in the university, which is besieged by the police.

PRODEN ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF PROVOKING VIOLENCE

PY182132 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1427 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 18 Aug (EFE) -- Jorge Lavanderos, president of the National Development Project (PRODEN), the organization that groups the main political figures of the opposition, today stated that President Augusto Pinochet's new government is "trying to hide the trash under the rug."

Former Senator Lavanderos thus answered the minister secretary general of the new Chilean Government, Alfonso Marques de la Plata, who charged the persons who called for the fourth day of national protest with responsibility for the violence that took place last week, only a month away from the 10th anniversary of the coup which overthrew Salvador Allende.

According to the official report, 24 persons died, but according to Councillor of State Guillermo Medina, there were 5 more, in addition to the hundreds of injured and detained persons.

Lavanderos stated that "there are two undeniable facts: that real war bullets were used, and that the call for protest was peaceful, as it is clear to the entire nation."

Lavanderos added that if the call was peaceful, it cannot be interpreted otherwise; and if the result was violent, the only thing that can be investigated is who provoked the violence.

Lavanderos concluded saying that "what is crystal clear to all is that the culprits must not be sought among those who did not fire bullets against the people."

Police Investigate Protest Day Deaths

PY180323 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 17 Aug (EFE) -- Pedro Espinoza, chief of the plaincloths Investigative Police Department, today stated the police are investigating 21 deaths which took place during the fourth day of national protest against General Pinochet's military regime on 11 and 12 August. Espinoza pointed out that the deaths occurred "partly during clashes with groups of a merely political nature."

Espinoza added that "groups from various sectors spread out when clashes take place, usually for vandalic purposes; therefore, it becomes difficult to differentiate between them and this is when we encounter difficulties in carrying out the investigations."

He also pointed out that several persons who had been reported as having died during the protest actually died from other causes, some by accident.

According to the minister secretary general of the government, 24 persons died during the protest; 21 of them in the Santiago metropolitan area and 3 in Valparaiso. Councillor of state and union leader Gustavo Medina said the number of dead was 29.

U.S., FRENCH OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY IN SEGUEL CASE

PY182308 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1408 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 18 Aug (EFE) -- French Ambassador to Chile Leon Bouvier and two U.S. Embassy advisers will be summoned to testify in the trial which the military government has begun against union leader Rodolfo Seguel.

Before the closing of the proceeding, Court of Appeals prosecutor Marcial Garcia asked the special judge to call Ambassador Bouvier and the U.S. Embassy labor and political advisers to testify.

According to what has been learned, Seguel had contacts with different diplomatic representatives accredited to Santiago before and after the first two national protests, both of which he called.

'ALFARIST MONTONEROS' RAID GUAYAQUIL MUSEUM

PA181655 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Guayaquil -- Last night, 10 minutes before closing time at the Municipal Museum's History Hall, three unidentified criminals staged a robbery and stole two swords with gold hilts studded with rubies and silver from the case which held the personal effects of General Eloy Alfaro. The swords belonged to the elderly forefather. The robbers quickly left and fled in a small blue station wagon that had been parked at Sucre Street, near the entrance to the Municipal Museum.

It was learned that one the swords was a gift from Spanish King Alfonso XII to Eloy Alfaro, and the other one bears an inscription where Alfaro himself stated he had presented it as a gift to General Pedro Montero on his wedding day. One of the swords bears the following inscription: "Don't draw me without reason; don't sheath me without honor."

The thieves left some copies of a pamphlet in which a so-called Alfarist Montonero organization claims responsibility for the action. The proclamation says in conclusion: "The swords of Alfaro and Montero, which fought for liberty on the battlefield, were turned into museum pieces by those who betrayed the Alfarist revolution. These swords felt restless as exhibits in glass cases, and demanded to be drawn to resume the liberation struggle. Now the Alfarists draw these swords to resume and safeguard the lengthy people's struggle for a free and sovereign Ecuador."

Police, Military To Investigate

PA181700 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Guayaquil -- Guayas Province Governor Dr Gustavo Novoa has decided that National Police and military intelligence personnel should launch an intense operation to recover the two historical swords that belonged to General Eloy Alfaro, which were stolen from the municipal museum. It has been learned that the swords' handles are made of gold studded with rubies. One of them had the following inscription: "Don't draw me without reason; don't sheathe me without honor," a phrase which has been attributed to Gen Alfaro.

It must be noted that after stealing the swords, the criminals left several leaflets on the floor, with slogans connected with the Alfarist struggle, such as "Alfarist Montoneros, we swear to win", "Viva the FRA" [Alfarist Radical Front]; and "Alfaro Vive," among others.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NAMED -- The Popular Democratic Union has selected Dr Rene Mauge as its presidential candidate by the unanimous vote of the 1,130 delegates to its fourth national congress, which ended in Guayaquil on 13 August. The party congress also unanimously agreed to change the name that appears in the party's supreme tribunal -- the Popular Democratic Union -- to the Leftwing Broad Front [Frente Amplio de Izquierda]. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Aug 83 PA]

MILITARY GROUP SET UP TO ADVANCE DEMOCRATIZATION

PY180358 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0247 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 16 Aug (EFE) -- A military commission made up of career officers, established to seek to advance the Uruguayan democratization program -- which was interrupted because of disagreements between the government and the political parties -- showed today that the de facto regime is apparently softening its position.

EFE has been able to learn from military sources that the commission, which is in charge of drafting a project that will be "acceptable" to Uruguayan political sectors, is presided over by General Angel Barrios, director of the Military Institute of Higher Studies. The other members of this commission, which held its first meeting today, are Rear Admiral Ricardo Largher and General Fernando Arbe.

The commission was created by the junta commanders and has the support of almost all the commanders from the three branches of the Armed Forces.

Barrios, the head of the commission, is viewed as one of the Uruguayan generals who favors the return of normalcy, and he is the leader of the career officer group in the Army.

The creation of this work group, which will act independently of the military commission that conducted the dialogue with the political sector, shows that the regime is willing to fulfill the democratization program which will culminate with the handing over of the government to civilians in March 1985.

This fact, which has not yet been made public in the country, shows that the military is making efforts to resume the dialogue with the political parties -- which was interrupted last month -- so as to achieve the democratization of the country.

The military and politicians began a series of meetings on 13 May to come up with a draft constitutional amendment. The dialogue was interrupted after seven meetings because not much progress was made and each side charged the other with being intransigent in its positions.

BRIEFS

NEW UK AMBASSADOR APPOINTED — A career diplomat, Charles Wallace, has been appointed UK ambassador to Uruguay. Wallace was the UK's ambassador to Peru prior to this appointment, and is replacing Patricia Hutchinson. This was reported to El Espectator at noon today by the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry and the British Embassy. [Excerpts] [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Aug 83 PY]

MEAT EXPORTS INCREASE — The National Meat Institute has reported that exports of meat, offal, and other byproducts amounted to $28 million in July. The source also indicated that between January and July this year, 152,000 tons of these commodities were exported, which represents a 49-percent increase over the same period of last year. [Summary] [Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Aug 83 PY]

HAVANA REPORTS TWO U.S. SHRIMP BOATS DETAINED

FL181550 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Mexican Navy Secretariat has reported that a Coast Guard patrol boat has detained two U.S. shrimp boats for illegally fishing in Mexican waters. The U.S. boats were surprised while engaging in piracy, fishing illegally 8 and 10 miles off the Mexican coast. The boats were taken to the port of Tampico, Tamaulipas, and placed at the disposal of Mexican port authorities.

WORLD BANK OFFICER WARNS AGAINST DEBT MORATORIUM

FL181436 Bridgetown CANA in English 1329 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, Aug 18, CANA-REUTER -- World Bank Vice President Ernest Stern, in a meeting with Mexican officials here yesterday, cautioned against declaring moratoriums on foreign debts.

Stern's warning came just 10 days before the Mexican Government is expected to announce a new restructuring plan for part of its 83 billion dollar foreign debt.

He appeared at a press conference after meeting Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Finance Minister Jesus Silva Herzog.

Asked about reports that Mexico and other Latin nations would declare a year-long moratorium on servicing their debts, Stern said he doubted the veracity of the reports. "To declare a unilateral moratorium in regards to servicing the debt without doubt would eliminate that country as a candidate for credit for a long time," Stern said.

Brazil's 90 billion dollar debt is the highest in the world and Mexico's debt follows in second place. Latin American nations altogether owe about 300 billion dollars.

At a recent meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) members, government leaders urged the 20 finance ministers attending to seek a consolidated position in renegotiating their debts. Stern cautioned against a unified position of refusing to pay. "The consequences would truly be very bad for those countries," he said. He also praised Mexico's response to its economic crisis, triggered by the heavy debt, a drop in oil prices and a shortage of foreign exchange, as worthy of world admiration.

On Monday, Stern signed an agreement giving Mexico 175 million dollars in credit, part of a package arranged earlier this year. Mexico has borrowed a total of 880 million dollars this year from the World Bank, he said.

BRIEFS

URAMEX SHUTDOWN -- The Mexican Uranium Enterprise [URAMEX], a state company created for the exploration, exploitation, processing, and commercialization of radioactive minerals for domestic and foreign consumption, has decided to close temporarily for 6 months because the expected increase in electrical energy consumption that prompted the creation of the company has not materialized, largely because there was zero growth in the nation's economy in 1982. The company will review its situation every 6 months, and duly notify the Conciliation and Arbitration Board and the Sole Trade Union of Nuclear Energy Workers in the event operations are resumed. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Aug 83 p 28 PA]

EL SALVADOR

U.S. MANEUVERS SAID THREATENING, PROVOCATIVE

PA190151 San Salvador EL SALVADOR PROCESO in Spanish 18-31 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Offensives"]

[Excerpts] Mr Reagan and his assistants, carrying out threatening and provocative military maneuvers in the region for the past 15 days, have apparently implemented another phase of their policy toward the area.

Nicaragua is experiencing military pressure while intense diplomatic activities are carried out by the Contadora Group in an effort to minimize the risk of the internationalization of the Central American conflict (which could have reached its most critical point during the past 2 weeks). The Cancun Declaration issued on 17 July by the presidents of the Contadora Group countries promoted diplomatic efforts, but all indications are that the United States and its Central American allies prefer an immediate military solution and the total reorganization of the Nicaraguan Government as a condition for peace, despite the flexible attitude of the Nicaraguan proposal read by Commander Daniel Ortega on 19 July. In fact, Mr Reagan has said that as long as the Sandinists are in power, "it is going to be very hard" to realize peace and stability in Central America.

In White House is certainly aware of the general disapproval of its policy in the area. The House of Representatives has cut funds for covert aid to the anti-Sandinists, and international organizations, including member-countries of NATO, with the exception of Great Britain, have expressed their support for the Contadora Group efforts. Despite all this, the slow process of negotiations is being overtaken by the U.S. militaristic decisions.

As is to be expected, the intensity of regional developments is affecting countries' domestic affairs. Despite the active political efforts promoted by the discussion of the constitutional bill and the debate being carried out by the political parties as to whether the elections should be postponed, most activities seem to have reached an impasse.

AUTONOMY IN POLICY, DECISION-MAKING URGED

PA180421 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1920 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Editorial: "Presidents Reagan and De la Madrid Discuss Central America"]

[Text] Last weekend, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid met in Mexico. The meeting was awaited with great expectation by international political circles since it was known that much of the agenda would revolve around the Central American problem. And that is what happened -- Central America was the main topic of the talks between the two presidents.

We will not comment on or analyze the political suggestions and ideas of the Mexican and U.S. heads of state regarding Central America and El Salvador. We are already aware of the differences in the way each views the problem; these differences have even led to a rift in the diplomacy of the two nations.

But it is important that we call attention to the fact that presidents of foreign nations are discussing our countries' problems. It seems that here in El Salvador no one is surprised that our internal affairs have become the concern of other countries and other political forces.

We fully agree that international relations have recently turned autonomy in domestic policy for every country into something extremely complex. This is a situation involving conflict and we therefore have to prepare to maintain relations with the international community and be subjected to the pressures and influences of the [word indistinct], but there is a great difference between this and what we have actually become.

Why can't the national political forces solve Salvadoran problems before others do it for them? Do we silently accept having a foreign power decide our destiny? Do we not have the capacity to organize ourselves and decide on our own how we wish to conduct our lives and our society?

Even though we have a government that has been appointed to exercise political power, it seems it is incapable of doing so. It seems it accepts as something quite normal having our destiny decided abroad. Our politicians, if they can be described as such, do not honestly seek, with a true sense of responsibility, the more feasible alternatives that would help to overcome the current crisis. They limit themselves to discussing peripheral issues. When they should discuss the real priorities -- political power, the war, and conflicts -- they just sit and wait for the solutions to come from abroad.

It is time we began to govern ourselves. Salvadoran reality must not be discussed in a foreign capital. Let us become the actors and directors of our own destiny. If we continue accepting a supporting role in the future, we will (?experience more suffering). Our lives and our destiny are so valuable that they can never be decided abroad.

It is appropriate that President Reagan and President de la Madrid discuss the Salvadoran problem. Those two countries have enormous potential, and Central America is located in what they have described as [words indistinct]. However, it is not acceptable that in this country, where everything is happening, we do nothing. All official policy is decided from abroad.

The time has come for the Salvadoran political leadership to involve the people in the decisionmaking and, putting aside foreign decisions, draft national policies in accordance with what we believe to be our real interests. In other words, let us make national policy, not foreign policy.

DIARIO EL MUNDO VIEWS NEW GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT

PA180334 San Salvador DIARIO EL MUNDO in Spanish 16 Aug 83 p 6

[Editorial: "New Government in Guatemala"]

[Excerpts] Central America has definitely become a focal point for most of the world because of the guerrilla actions involving most of the countries of the isthmus. Coups constitute a large part of these countries' histories, not only because the coups are violent measures, but because of their consequences. Now we have the recent overthrow of former Guatemalan President General Rios Montt. His overthrow has been attributed to several factors, but primarily to his religious beliefs and expressions publicly described as fanaticism.

It is understandable in the case of Guatemala that the United States has approved the military coup, since its originator,-- General Oscar Mejia Victores -- favors U.S. efforts to prevent other counries from falling into the hands of the communists. Current problems are more than enough.

The United States -- and much has been said about this -- is willing to defend its interests in Central America and to contain the Marxist-Leninist wave. This implies the U.S. Government's desire that democratic regimes prevail in Guatemala and the rest of the area.

Although former Guatemalan President Rios Montt had handled the guerrilla problem, as well as other domestic government problems, with some expertise, he was not considered the best representative of the democratic system because of his adherence to a religious sect alien to Catholicism, which is predominant in Guatemala. To this must be added his tendency to mix matters of religion and state.

The Guatemalan situation is not the same as ours, where the state of war has lasted longer and has been more devastating than the one faced by that neighboring country or any other Central American country. This makes us hope for a better future for the new Guatemalan head of state. It is also to be hoped that the new regime will be as patriotic as it claims, respecting the citizens' basic liberties and rights, beginning with human rights, that Guatemala will overcome the crisis, and that its people will attain the peace, progress, and welfare they deserve.

PEACE COMMISSION LEADER PREDICTS GUERRILLA MEETING

PA190210 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0118 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Aug (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Salvadoran Peace Commission will meet with leftist guerrillas in the next 2 to 4 weeks for talks aimed at putting an end to the civil war in that country, the commission's president told REUTERS today.

Francisco Quinonez, who heads the group in charge of bringing the guerrillas closer to the democratic process, said that several contacts have been made and that final arrangements for the meeting are being made. He noted that he hoped the meeting would be held in the next 2 to 4 weeks, outside El Salvador. He did not specify where the talks would be held, but in the past he had suggested Nicaragua, where several guerrilla leaders live.

The meeting -- which Quinonez said would be held in secret -- would be the first between the Salvadoran Government and the leftist insurgents since the civil war began in October 1979.

Diplomatic sources close to the commission said that guerrilla leaders have contacted members of the commission through letters and intermediaries, but the proposed conference would be the first face-to-face contact.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY APPROVES BAN ON ARMED GROUPS

PA181525 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0600 GMT 18 Aug 83

[By Robert Block]

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Aug (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Salvadoran Constituent Assembly today banned all armed groups of any political leaning except the Armed Forces.

The 60-member assembly voted unanimously to introduce an article in the draft constitution banning "the existence of armed political, religious, or labor groups."

Adolfo Antonio Castillo, assembly representative of the moderate Christian Democratic Party, told REUTERS that the article is directed at both the extreme rightwing and at leftwing organizations. "We are expressing political condemnation of all those groups and these practices," he added.

During the 4-year virtual civil war more than 42,000 persons have been killed. Most of the victims were not combatants, and many of them were killed by the "death squads" comprised of extreme rightwing groups, according to countless charges brought by human rights organizations. (?According) to these charges, many of the "death squad" members are active or retired members of the Armed Forces.

Spokesmen for the assembly said that the article is the first constitutional prohibation of this sort in the history of the country, although the existence of armed groups is explicitly banned by the Salvadoran penal code.

Castillo said that the constitutional prohibition gives the legal system a powerful tool in trying members of the armed organizations.

The assembly is currently engaged in approving each article of the draft constitution. Members of the assembly estimate that they may finish this work next month.

AMNESTY COMMISSION PRESIDENT ON RESULTS OF LAW

PA180229 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] The Amnesty Commission expects to welcome in the next few hours more people seeking protection under the amnesty law before it expires, according to Dr Ernesto Arbizu Mata, commission president. Asked why the number of amnestied increased after the law was no longer in force, he said the persons who benefited were those who turned themselves in in the country's interior on 15 August. He reported that statistics up to yesterday revealed 1,116 amnestied, 554 of whom were political prisoners and 562 persons who had turned themselves over of their own violition. Dr Arbizu Mata was asked the following:

[Announcer] Dr Arbizu Mata, how do you view these results in light of the fact that some people have said this number is very small and that the guerrillas are estimated at some 10,000 strong?

[Arbizu Mata] I do not think this is a small number. Nor did the commission want to give a conflicting figure. This is a considerable number of people to have benefited from the (?amnesty). It seems to me this is a rather good result obtained from the law. I do not want to stress numbers, but rather the possibilities offered each of these people.

[Announcer] Dr Mata, when the Amnesty Commission was sworn in it expressed its intention of acting in an apolitical manner. It also demanded the cooperation of society itself to accept unselfishly those benefiting from the law. Do you think these goals were achieved during the Amnesty Commission's operation?

[Arbizu Mata] I do not believe we at the Amnesty Commission are the ones to judge whether we acted legally. We believe we achieved objectives, and we really did all we could in the matter. However, you will have to decide how we really acted.

In addition, regarding the reception the amnestied have had in Salvadoran society, I think they have been received well. This no longer depends on us, but on society itself [words indistinct]. The society is cooperating.

[Announcer] Will the Rehabilitation Committee continue to operate?

[Arbizu Mata] The Rehabilitation Committee will have to continue operating until each of these people is rehabilitated or relocated in a job and has the opportunity to be rehabilitated.

COPREFA REPORTS REBEL ACTIONS, ARMY OPERATION

PA182231 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Bulletin issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee]

[Text] Members of the El Paisnal civil defense clashed with FMLN terrorists early this morning in La Pita hacienda, Aguilares jurisdiction, San Salvador Department. One terrorist was killed during the clash and one AR-15 rifle and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered. Members of the civil defense reported no casualties.

Operations on the Southeastern Areas of the San Salvador Volcano

Members of the 1st Infantry Brigade began a military operation this morning on the southeastern slopes of the San Salvador volcano. This operation is intended to dislodge the small groups of extremists that, according to reports, are attempting to regroup in the area and launch attacks on the surrounding towns.

ARMY BEGINS COMBING OPERATION AROUND SAN SALVADOR

PA182233 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Colonel Adolfo Blandon, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, has said that its members today began a combing operation to control, locate, and harass the guerrilla groups located around San Salvador. The officer added that two companies have been stationed in the area southeast of the San Salvador Volcano, and that they operate with the support of the Salvadoran Air Force. Other companies have been deployed on Guazapa Hill in an attempt to prevent further rebel activity.

ARMY REPORTS CONTROL OF EASTERN ZONE HIGHWAYS

PA182227 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 47

[Text] Colonel Jaime Ernesto Flores, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, yesterday disclosed that the Army is in control of the situation in the eastern zone. He explained that the Army has taken the initiative with new offensive tactics, giving the guerrillas no respite.

Flores revealed that the 3d Infantry Brigade has units in various sectors of San Miguel Department and that search and destroy missions against guerrilla camps are in full swing throughout the eastern zone, which comprises the departments of Morazan, San Miguel, La Union, and Usulutan.

Regarding recent actions, Flores explained that they were directed against groups abandoning their positions in San Vicente, Guazapa, Chalatenango, and Cuscatlan, and seeking new positions to continue fighting.

Col Flores said that the Army is in control of all highways in the eastern zone.

With regard to the San Lorenzo dam in San Vicente Department, Flores indicated that although vigilance has been sufficient, it will be increased.

Another military source reported that control posts and gates have been set up at the Cerron Grande and Chorrera del Guayabo hydroelectric centers, with infantry patrols and air support, because reports have been received that large guerrilla groups are gathering near these centers.

Many trucks were seen transporting troops yesterday to these two centers which are constantly threatened by the guerrillas.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON RECENT MILITARY ACTIONS

Patrol Ambushed Near Suchitoto

PA181400 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Reports from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in San Salvador Department reveal that last Monday guerrilla forces ambushed a National Guard patrol on the road leading from San Martin to Suchitoto. In the ambush, set up in Santo Domingo canton, six national guardsmen were killed and six others wounded.

The next day, Tuesday, 16 August, militia groups sabotaged electrical installations near Km 36 on the main northern highway, further crippling the war economy of the dictatorship.

Thus, claims that FMLN forces had been driven out of Cuscatlan and San Salvador are again discredited by further blows against the forces of the dictatorship. Colonels Blandon and Monterrosa have run willy-nilly throughout the territory, losing men and weakening their forces, with no positive results.

Onward, heroic Guazapa, guerrilla bastion in the heart of our fatherland!

Professor 'Brutally Murdered'

PA181440 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] On 13 July, three soldiers from San Francisco Gotera, in Morazan Department, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Cruz, brutally murdered Professor Rosa Benitez de Argueta and her father, while her husband, Pompilio Argueta, was critically wounded.

The San Francisco Gotera command, well known in Morazan Department for its forces' abuses and murders, fled the premises after beheading the body of Professor Rosa Benitez.

Not being able to conceal this dastardly crime from the community, Lt Col Cruz ordered the arrest of the criminals. Residents of San Francisco Gotera affirm that Lt Col Cruz announced the execution of the murderers.

We ask: Now that he has them in his power, will Alberto Cruz have the nerve to execute them? Will he have the nerve to kill his own men for following his criminal orders?

The people of San Francisco Gotera demand justice, and that the guilty be punished for their crime.

GUATEMALA

OFFICIALS CITED ON FOREIGN POLICY, POSSIBLE U.S. AID

PA181705 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2147 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Aug (DPA) -- Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran today reaffirmed Guatemala's position of maintaining an independent foreign policy oriented toward finding a solution to the problems of the isthmus by the Central Americans themselves, within the framework and in the spirit of respect and cooperation.

For his part, General Hector Mario Lopez, chief of the Army General Staff, today said that there is a possibility the United States will resume its military assistance to Guatemala. However, he denied reports of the possible installation of U.S. bases in Guatemala.

Gen Lopez also denied allegations that the Guatemalan Army has been receiving U.S. weapons from the Salvadoran Army or that Salvadoran troops are being trained in bases in the Guatemalan province of Jutiapa, bordering El Salvador.

Furthermore, Gen Lopez stated that despite the lack of U.S. military assistance, which was suspended for several years, the Guatemalan Army is well-equipped and capable of confronting the guerrilla movement.

According to official reports, the guerrilla movement in the areas of conflict has been controlled in the past few months, and hundreds of guerrillas or individuals who have collaborated with them have benefited from the amnesty.

REBELS ANNOUNCE SEPTEMBER GENERAL OFFENSIVE

PA180339 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2344 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP) reported here today that the Army is surrounding three towns in the country's central region and that approximately 6,000 troops are participating in the action. The evening newspaper LA RAZON reported this today, adding that the towns affected by the military siege are San Jose Poaquil, San Martin Jilotepeque, and Tecpan, all in central Guatemala.

According to the EGP, the Army has been present there for "the past several weeks" with approximately 6,000 ground and air troops. It added that the siege is intended to isolate these towns from guerrilla forces operating in the area.

In conclusion, the EGP stated that detachments of the Rebel Armed Forces, the Armed People's Revolutionary Organization, and EGP units carry out actions in this region. These groups are members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, which is fighting the military regime.

In addition, General Hector Lopez Fuentes, chief of the Army General Staff, said today that the Army is capable of counteracting a general guerrilla offensive, thus responding to rumors circulating here in that regard.

Guerrilla groups have announced a general offensive for September.

FAR 'TECUN UMAN' FRONT OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY

PA171615 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0211 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 16 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The "Tecun Uman" guerrilla front of Guatemala's Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) declared on the first anniversary of its public appearance that it has become a "primary political factor in the Guatemalan political-military struggle."

A document released here today on the first anniversary asserted that "after a year of combat, the wise decision of Commander in Chief Companero Pablo Monsanto in August 1982 to order the public appearance of this guerrilla front has been confirmed in practice."

The document noted that the upsurge of the "Tecun Uman" resulted in the overthrow of the government of Efrain Rios Montt, and it will also challenge the present administration of Oscar H. Mejia Victores.

The front pointed out that the military offensives carried out in the area have not confronted the guerrilla's armed forces, but, instead, "have glutted their cruelty on the civilian population," applying "scorched earth" tactics, depriving them of their means of subsistence to force the survivors to relocate into so-called "model villages or strategic villages."

They noted in that context that "we have also contributed to what we consider one of the most important advances of the Guatemalan revolutionary process -- the joint military actions in the central highlands carried out by the organizations that make up the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG)."

They added that they have restored the historic figure of "Tecun Uman," a legendary military leader of the ancient Quiches, "and placed him at the service of his true heirs, the people of Guatemala who, following his example of courage and dignity, fight with weapons in hand to achieve their liberation, national independence, and peace."

"Tecun Uman," one of the FAR's fronts, operates, in particular, in Chimaltenango Department, 50 km from the capital, and in the central highlands of Guatemala.

HAVANA REPORTS REBEL OCCUPATION IN PETEN

PA180247 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity guerrillas have occupied a farm, two cooperatives, and a stretch of the road that links the towns of San Diego and El Naranjo, Peten Department. At the El Paso farm and at the La Amistad and Las Flores cooperatives, the rebels distributed revolutionary propaganda among the residents.

HONDURAS

RUMORED INTERVENTIONIST PURPOSE OF MANEUVERS DENIED

PA182142 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] By inviting his neighbors and other hemispheric governments to send observers to the joint combined exercises involving the armies of Honduras and the United States, the head of the Honduran Government has flatly belied the rumors that Honduras is planning aggression against Nicaragua.

Our government could not have been any more categorical in asserting its loyal observance of the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states when, through the Foreign Affairs Secretariat, it addressed the foreign ministers of Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica and those in the Contadora Group -- Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico -- advising them about the combined exercises and extending to them a cordial invitation to send observers to watch the events that are scheduled to take place. If our country pursued some interventionist purpose with these exercises, the Honduran Government would not have sent these invitations.

Concerning these maneuvers, Armed Forces Chief General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez has explained that they will serve to improve our Army's capabilities and to give it better defensive training. According to the officer, we are not trying to attack Nicaragua, nor are there plans to station in Honduras the forces that will participate in the maneuvers. He further explained that only the experts who work in the Regional Military Training Center, CREM -- that is, the technicians and instructors -- will remain in our territory.

So our neighbors can rest at ease. Our government has repeatedly affirmed that it strictly observes, and will continue to observe, the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of its neighboring states, of any other state in this hemisphere, or of any state elsewhere in the world.

NICARAGUAN, CUBAN BACKING OF SUBVERSIVES ASSERTED

PA181605 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Communique issued by the Honduran Armed Forces' Public Relations Directorate; date and place not given]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate informs Honduran citizens and international public opinion that Honduran Jose Nicolas Castro Flores, alias Fausto or Heliodoro Aguirre, a member of a subversive group that was trying to enter Honduras from Nicaragua, has turned himself over to the public security forces. The desertion of this Honduran, as well as his statement, made three elementary points evident:

1. Both Nicaragua and Cuba have been fully identified as the promoters of a subversive escalation designed to destabilize the peace and order that currently prevail in this country.

2. Reports that subtly deceived Hondurans are massively trained in Nicaragua and Cuba to commit terrorism, in an effort to destabilize the national peace, are thus confirmed.

3. The evident desertions by the elements who comprise this subversive group reflect their manifest opposition to creating chaos and violence among their own people.

The Honduran Armed Forces have already organized the necessary military operation to neutralize the action of these groups, but require the patriotic cooperation of all citizens in revealing any activity or action against stability and the established legal order.

'SOMOZIST' CRIMES, BORDER VIOLATIONS DENOUNCED

PA182125 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Concerning the charges that we made a few days ago on this station that several girls had been raped by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary elements who make raids into Honduras, here is lawyer Joaquin Alvarado Pineda, who wishes to comment on these shameful incidents, which are detrimental to our children's moral and physical dignity.

[Begin recording] What is currently happening in Choluteca is both regrettable and alarming. People are afraid to tell the truth, but lies are spread in every direction in this country. In truth, the Somozists are terrorizing the department. Rodas Baca [presumably liberal leader Modesto Rodas Baca] was correct, but the buzzards who want war in this country fell on his back.

At about 0900 on 12 July, Nicaraguan Somozist Marcial Martinez Ordonez and six men armed with submachineguns stormed the home of Mrs Graciela de Moreno, who lives in San Judas, jurisdiction of [place name indistinct]. The girl Anais Moreno was brutally raped by the brothers Gerardo Martinez Ordonez and Marcial Martinez Ordonez, both Nicaraguans. Gerardo poses as a commander and Marcial as a deputy lieutenant, while a Captain Lopez has had 5,000 well armed men in (Usuyupo) and has conducted training 7 km from El Amatillo, in an area in El Zarzal.

Border violations occur all the time. They kill people and then pretend the Sandinists did it. This is regrettable. In the village of San Judas, for instance, they kill anyone who arrives there after 1800 and then leave without problem. Meanwhile, the local authorities look the other way. I make these charges because this is public knowledge in Choluteca. War is being sponsored in Honduras while talk of peace goes on. This is regrettable, and neither this sepulchral silence nor this farce (?and lying) can be maintained in this country. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT CREATES INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

PA171555 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Government Resolution No 195; date not given]

[Text] Whereas: The U.S. President has created a bipartisan commission headed by Henry Kissinger in charge of designing a cooperation plan for Central America. The plan will include not only aspects related to social and economic aid to be implemented in a medium- and long-range economic assistance program; it will also establish political guidelines in the security field and ample support for democratic governments in Central America.

In order to contribute to the commission's working plan, the governments who will benefit from it should propose ideas and topics, make recommendations and suggestions, and give opinions that will help in the implementation of the program. This will enable the commission to define the political, economic, social, and diplomatic objectives that will help solve the problems in each Central American country, in order to guarantee stability and progress in the region.

Therefore, we have resolved:

1. To create an inter-institutional commission that will proceed in accordance with the above guidelines.

2. This commission will be formed of the secretaries of state for the Presidential Office, foreign affairs, finance and public credit, economy and commerce, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Bank president, and executive secretaries of the Higher Council of Economic Planning and National Agrarian Institute.

3. The secretary of state for the Presidential Office will be in charge of coordinating the activities of the inter-institutional commission.

4. The inter-institutional commission is free to contact economic and social sectors representing Honduran society, in order to exchange ideas that will facilitate the commission's work.

Publish this resolution.

[Signed] Roberto Suazo Cordova, president

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES REVEAL ENLISTMENT DRIVE

PA170430 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 16 Aug 83 p 20

[Article by Juan R. Aguilera Z.]

[Text] Choluteca -- A new group of Nicaraguans has arrived in this city, fleeing the Sandinist regime that rules Nicargua and frightened by an apparent new repressive wave focused on capturing children older than 13 years of age for service in the militias.

The new group of 32 people, which includes men, women, and children, told EL HERALDO that the National Reconstruction Junta has begun a tenacious search for minors, in order to enlist them in the army and to strengthen the armed struggle against those who oppose the government.

The Nicaraguans, now in Choluteca, are from the city of El Viejo in Chinandega Department, a town famous for its religious fervor and its traditional homage to Our Lady of El Viejo. The dissidents arrived in Honduras by sea last week, entering by way of the Gulf of Fonseca through the Guapino area in the Marcovia sector, near the village of Gonjara in Choluteca Department.

They Take Our Children Away From Us

One of the Nicarguans in the group -- Simon Amador Varela -- told EL HERALDO: "We left because the situation is very serious. They are taking our children away from us and we do not know where they take them."

He said that there is even greater repression of those who rebel against the Sandinist rulers' orders and those who refuse to obey the new "Patriotic Military Service" Law, which is binding on all Nicaraguans to the age of 50.

The Nicaraguans who have taken refuge here also explained that in addition to the persecution, "they believe that the majority of the people do not agree with the government," and that the situation is even more dramatic because Nicaragua is experiencing its highest food costs ever.

Among the Nicaraguans who emigrated to Honduras were Simon Admador Varela, Francisco Gonzalez, Carmen Caliz, Andrea Felix Blanco, Teofilo Alvarez, Nubia Espinosa, and the minors Angel Alvarez, Mercedes Alvarez, Elias Alvarez, Jose Noel Felix, Mariano Alvarez, Carla Alvarez, David Alvarez, and Marta Elena Felix.

BRIEFS

CANADIAN OIL EXPLORATIONS -- Tegucigalpa, 12 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- A private Canadian company will invest $30 million in oil explorations in the Honduran Mosquitia region on the Atlantic coast in the first phase of an extensive oil exploration program. According to William Kaya, an official of the firm, the chances of finding large oil deposits in the region are very good. [Summary] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0210 GMT 13 Aug 83 PA]

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL DECISION -- The National Electoral Tribunal yesterday annulled the 29 and 31 July elections of two National Party of Honduras Central Committees, and decreed that the party's authorities are those legally elected in the 4 February session presided over by Nicolas Cruz Torres. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Aug 83 PA]

NICARAGUA

AFP: HUMBERTO ORTEGA REPORTS NEW CONTRA OFFENSIVE

PA190405 Paris AFP in Spanish 0223 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 18 Aug (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega today said that the counterrevolutionary forces are currently carrying out their biggest offensive thus far in 1983 and did not rule out an attempt on their part to occupy some important town in the north or in the country's Atlantic coast region to proclaim a provisional government that "would be recognized and supported by the United States and its allies in the region."

Ortega described as "difficult" the military situation in northern Nicaragua, where heavy fighting is taking place, particularly in Jinotega, 17 km north of Managua. The defense minister made these statements at noon today after decorating the representatives of the militia battalion from San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega, who repelled a surprise attack by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) on Monday.

The Sandinist officer said that he is certain counterrevolutionary activities will increase in the next few days in the north, the south, and the Atlantic coast area of the country. He warned that "the invaders" may try to occupy Puerto Cabezas, 420 km northeast of Managua, or the border towns of Jalapa and Ocotal, in Nueva Segovia, a few kilometers from the border with Honduras.

Ortega admitted to "dozens of casualties" in the Sandinist People's Army during clashes in the past few weeks with counterrevolutionary groups, which according to Sandinist sources have suffered some 130 dead and many wounded.

He said the current military campaign "is better organized and has more logistical support from the United States and the Honduran Army than the one carried out in February, March, and April," when some 2,000 men of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, launched a strong offensive in the north and tried unsuccessfully to occupy the town of Jalapa. Ortega also reported that 10 members of the Masaya Department reserves were killed while fighting in the Atlantic coast area of the country, although he did not mention the size of the clashes in that region. He did not say if there had been clashes with the democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, which is led by Eden Pastora, former deputy defense minister.

Ortega said that "this is the price" Nicaragua pays "to be free," while asserting that "with our own power we will defeat the invaders because we are defending our own independent cause."

HUMBERTO ORTEGA CONGRATULATES MPS DEFENDERS

PA182202 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Today, commander of the revolution and Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra acknowledged the heroism demonstrated by the Sandinist People's Militias [MPS] in San Rafael del Norte in the defense of their village. The acknowledgement was sent on behalf of the National Directorate of the FSLN and the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] General Command.

In addition, Guerrilla Commander (Francisco Ramirez), MPS inspector general, and Deputy Commander Roberto Sanchez, EPS chief of public and foreign relations, were delegated by the defense minister to personally deliver message to the heroic militiamen of San Rafael del Norte, who yesterday, 17 August, repelled a counterrevolutionary band that tried to take the village. The text of the letter reads:

Companeros of the MPS battalion in San Rafael del Norte, Companeros: On behalf of the National Directorate of the FSLN, of the EPS General Command, and myself, please be aware of our deep recognition of the courage demonstrated by your heroic defense of the village of San Rafael del Norte. This has demonstrated the morale and fighting spirit of the real patriots, the sons of Sandino.

I have instructed that this heroic action become an offical part of the history of our EPS, because it is actions like this that forge our glorious history of sacrifice and victory. I greet you with a fraternal Sandinist embrace. Revolutionarily,

Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, defense minister, EPS commander in chief, national chief of the MPS

COMMENTS, REACTIONS REGARDING MILITARY SERVICE BILL

AFP Cites Cerda Remarks

PA172236 Paris AFP in Spanish 2132 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Managua, 16 Aug (AFP) -- Captain Federico Cerda, the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) chief for direction and mobilizaiton, has reported that approximately 200,000 Nicaraguans, between the ages of 17 and 21, will have to register for the patriotic military service in October.

Cerda admitted that certain minorities have begun to leave the country, fearing that their sons will be incorporated in the activities described in the military service bill. He also explained that an attempt will be made to win over certain religious sects which oppose the service bill.

Front Endorses Bill

PA171540 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] The Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR] has urged the various sociopolitical and economic forces to express their support of the Patriotic Military Service Bill to the Nicaraguan people and the world. An FPR pronouncement expresses concern over the U.S. military presence in Central American waters, noting that it is necessary to establish the means to guarantee the military defense of the homeland's sovereignty.

In view of this situation, the FPR has pledged that its militants will be the first to join the patriotic military service.

CUBAN STUDENT VOLUNTEER FOLLOWING TRADITION

DW190930 East Berlin Voice of the GDR Domestic Service in German 1400 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Eberhard Seybold report]

[Text] A group of Cuban students has now arrived in Nicaragua for voluntary work service. It will assist in housing construction for the people there. A report by our Latin America correspondent Eberhard Seybold follows:

It will not be easy for the young people, because up to now the Cubans in Nicaragua could always be found where working conditions were the hardest, living conditions the most frugal, and climatic conditions the harshest. The students who will now be confronted with this come from 11 special branches of Cuban universities and colleges. They call themselves an internationalist student brigade and they bear the name of the Sandinist Liberation Front's founder, Carlos Fonseca.

With their work in Nicaraguan villages, they want not only to help peasants build durable wooden houses, health centers, and simple schools for the village children; the young Cubans also want to demonstrate their performance at the seventh Latin American students' congress which will take place in mid-September in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. In contributing to the discussions of the students' congress, the students from Cuba will be following a tradition which has been tested not only in the construction of houses, roads, and bridges in Nicaragua.

I refer in this regard, to the 2,000 Cuban teachers and instructors who went to remote Nicaraguan villages to teach the peasants how to read and write. Illiteracy in this Central American country was part of the oppressive heritage of the Sandinist revolution 4 years ago. Some 50 percent of the entire population was illiterate, and the rate in the rural areas reached as high as 80 percent.

The fact that Nicaragua was able to lower the illiteracy rate to 12 percent and that in 1980 it was awarded the Nadezhda Krupskaya Prize by UNESCO is also indicative of the often unbelievable efforts of Cuban internationalists. Some of them had to sacrifice their lives because internal counterrevolutionaries sought to benefit from the Nicaraguans' ignorance, just as the Somoza dictatorship did previously.

No less important was the mission of Cuban physicians and health workers who traveled to Nicaragua immediately after the victory of the revolution. They, too, went to mountainous areas where physicians had never been. In rebuilding hospitals in the cities, training Nicaraguan specialists, and giving instruction in hygiene, they had to tear down walls of ignorance and prejudice and surmount appalling superstition. But those Cuban internationalists who were fighting diseases, filth, and misery had even worse enemies: the former Somoza supporters, who directed their weapons, their incendiary devices and explosives against the most modest beginnings of a turn for the better in the health system of the new Nicaragua. Esteem increases for what can only be termed self-sacrifice by the Cubans.

All this testifies to the traditions I mentioned previously and the young Cuban students who will now help in housing construction in the Nicaraguan villages will add to these traditions.

TWO CONSULATES TO OPERATE IN TIJUANA, MEXICO

PA172116 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Julio Cesar Aviles, an official of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Directorate, has announced that Nicaragua will open two consulates in Tijuana, Mexico. Aristides Ruiz and Alejandro Palacios will head these offices.

It is expected that many Nicaraguans will make trips from Los Angeles and San Francisco to these two consulates located on the Mexican border near the U.S. West Coast to carry out consular activites. Nicaragua has only one consulate in Washington following the closure of six consulates by Reagan in June.

HOUSING PROVIDED FOR MISKITO FAMILIES IN JINOTEGA

PA190050 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The revolutionary government provided 70 houses for Miskito families of Rio de Bocay in Jinotega who had been forced to leave their lands because of continual harassment by counterrevolutionary bands.

The housing project will include a school, a health center, and a cafeteria for children. There are also plans to provide electricity and drinking water.

BARRICADA ON COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CASUALTIES

PA171410 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Nine more counterrevolutionaries died in clashes yesterday with Sandinist People's Army troops and local militiamen in the area of San Rafael del Norte, the newspaper BARRICADA reported today, Wednesday. One clash took place a mere 5 km north of that town where, after an hour of fighting, the Sandinist troops inflicted nine casualties among the counterrevolutionaries.

'SOMOZISTS' REPORTEDLY KILL FAMILY WITH U.S. GRENADE

PA190136 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Counterrevolutionaries, using a special grenade used only by the U.S. Army, killed a peasant family in a place known as Cano de la Cruz, 13 km from San Jose de Bocay. The peasant family included a husband, wife, and three children between the ages of 3 and 6. The counterrevolutionaries threw a grenade into the house of Vicente Montenegro on Monday. The Somozist group of approximately 60 individuals wanted the peasants to open their door. They fled to Honduran territory after committing the crime.

The dismembered bodies were scattered throughout the hut.

HAVANA REPORTS ON RECENT ARMY-REBEL CLASHES

FL161550 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1414 GMT 16 Aug 83

[Text] The death of 26 counterrevolutionaries, two unsuccessful attacks on the town of San Rafael del Norte and on a border post, and a violation of Nicaraguan airspace were the most significant recent events in that country.

The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported that 20 former Somozist guardsmen died in an unsuccessful attempt to occupy the town of San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega Department. Over 100 counterrevolutionaries who infiltrated from Honduras launched their raid at 0400, but just 1 hour later, were repelled by the multipurpose Simon Bolivar Battalion of the Sandinist People's Army. The former Somozist guardsmen were trapped by the Sandinist combatants in a pincer operation, which resulted in the killing of 20 counterrevolutionaries and the wounding of an undetermined number at El Muerto Hill.

Nicaragua's BARRICADA newspaper today published an account which detailed how members of the militia and the revolutionary guardians, although outnumbered, fought and repelled the Honduran-based Somozists.

In the area of (Los Novales), 17 kms northwest of Wiwili, Jinotega Department, the Nicaraguan People's Army killed six counterrevolutionaries, suffering no casualties.

Meanwhile, Honduran soldiers opened rifle and heavy machinegun fire on Nicaragua's Las Manos border post in the northern department of Nueva Segovia. In a protest note to Tegucigalpa, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said the Sandinist armed forces, complying with previous instructions, did not respond to what it described as provocations.

Arrests in Chontales, Boaco

PA170232 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan General Directorate of State Security has reported the arrest of 31 counterrevolutionaries who tried to carry out armed actions in Chontales and Boaco Departments.

The source added the men belonged to two organizations that have been dismantled by Nicaraguan security forces, who also detained former Somozist guard Luis Ignacio Arguello, accused of the murder of Ahmad Campos, area leader for the Sandinist Front in Nueva Guinea.

First Lieutenant Roger Ramirez disclosed that one of the bands was planning to cut off communications between Juigalpa and Nueva Guinea, while launching a simultaneous attack on Sandinist police headquarters in Nueva Guinea.

BRIEFS

JOINT COMMENCEMENT WITH CUBA -- The first joint graduation of Cuban and Nicaraguan medical doctors will take place on 27 August 1983 at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua. A total of 336 medical doctors -- 135 Nicaraguans and 201 Cubans -- will receive their degrees. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 15 Aug 83 PA]

CUBAN MEDICAL BRIGADE -- The Cuban medical brigade that has been rendering services in Managua ended its third period of scientific research yesterday. The brigade consists of 131 doctors, including 45 interns who recently graduated in our country. It submitted 42 research papers on various aspects of health in Nicaragua, the most outstanding of which dealt with congenital defects in children, the treatment of war-wounded in hospitals, and tuberculosis in Nicaragua. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Aug 83 PA]

MEXICAN-IDB PROJECT -- A 75.9-million cordova contract for the construction of 12 bridges over the Rio Blanco-Siuna Highway was signed yesterday between CECSYSA, a private Mexican company, and the Nicaraguan Government. The IDB will finance the project, which will, at last, join Nicaragua's Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The joint venture is expected to be finished in 2 and 1/2 years. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Aug 83 p 5 PA]

NEW VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR -- Nguyen Dinh Bin, the new Vietnamese ambassador to Nicaragua, has presented his credentials to Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Aug 83 p 8 PA]

ALLEGED U.S. SHORTAGE OF SOLDIERS QUESTIONED

FL181855 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The warmongering propaganda of Ronald Reagan's administration has increased in the last few days in order to obtain new defense appropriations. Now the Pentagon is expressing concern over a supposed shortage of soldiers to honor the increasing so-called U.S. military commitments worldwide. In other words, Reagan wants to build up the armed forces in order to get more practice at his favorite sport -- interventionism.

To justify this campaign, General John Wickham, U.S. Army chief of staff, said that Washington's obligations exceed its capabilities and that its strategic objectives exceed its present capacity. One would have to ask Wickham whether his government considers it an obligation to intervene in other countries and to support regimes that massacre defenseless people. On the other hand, to say that the strategic objectives exceed present capacity means that the objectives of the present administration do not include mere regions; they resemble Hitler's frustrated plans for world domination.

Let us look at these supposed shortages of soldiers described by Wickham. Official figures show that the U.S. Armed Forces have 2,119,596 men and that 43 percent of their personnel is overseas. It has more than five divisions in Europe, one in South Korea, and one brigade in Panama; 1,800 Marines are stationed in Lebanon; and more than 400 military advisers are assigned to different satellite countries. Thousands of U.S. soldiers are now holding provocative maneuvers around the world: 5,550 began the Big Star exercises in Egypt, almost 3,000 are training off the Somali coast, and the first elements of a 5,500-man force have arrived in Honduras to stage the Big Pine II show of strength, which threatens to light the fuse in Central America and turn into a large-scale military intervention.

The other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are also on the move. The Yankee Navy is committed in several adventures. Two naval task forces are patrolling the Central American coasts and a third is steaming toward the Indian Ocean, while several ships are participating in the yearly Unitas exercises in South America. To stay abreast, the Air Force has sent 14 of its 30 AWACS aircraft to different parts of the world, and these have much to do with the provocations against Libya and the imperialist intervention in the war in Chad. Therefore, the Yankee military manpower shortage campaign is only a clumsy lie of the Yankee administration. It is a pretext to obtain the approval of a 1984 defense budget of $239 billion, which the Pentagon wants in order to continue its intervention.

STATION COMMENTS ON U.S. MANEUVERS IN C.A.

FL181240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The U.S. aircraft carrier Coral Sea, with 70 aircraft aboard and accompanied by 4 warships, has arrived in the area off the Nicaraguan coast as part of the provocative Big Pine II maneuvers. According to the Pentagon, this naval task force will conduct its planned maneuvers in international waters. The Coral Sea relieved the aircraft carrier Ranger, which conducted war exercises off the Pacific coast of Central America. The U.S. State Department also announced the upcoming arrival of the battleship New Jersey and another five U.S. Navy warships. At this time, military cargo aircraft, such as C-5 Galaxy, C-141, and C-130 Hercules, and Chinook helicopters, are conducting an airlift of sophisticated war materiel to Honduras.

Despite this aggressive escalation in the area, the Pentagon continues to express concern over the shortage of U.S. forces relative to the many U.S. military commitments throughout the world. According to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that statement was made by the new U.S. Army chief of staff, John Wickham, during a recent news conference in Washington. The senior Yankee military chief said that troop movements would probably exceed the capabilities of the Pentagon.

U.S. WANTS MORE MILITARY ADVISERS IN EL SALVADOR

PA180236 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST, a U.S. newspaper, reports that the U.S. Government will reclassify the advisers it presently has in El Salvador as specialists in communications and administration in order to send a greater number of military advisers to that Central American country. The newspaper adds that, because of public and congressional pressure, Washington has set a limit of 55 advisers for El Salvador but, because the situation of the Salvadoran regime is worsening, the United States is trying to increase its military presence without changing the allotted number of personnel.

U.S. ELECTORAL GRANT TO EL SALVADOR VIEWED

FL181510 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The U.S. Government has given Salvadoran authorities $3.4 million for that country's electoral farce in yet another attempt to improve the regime's disgraceful image. The grant was signed by the Salvadoran planning minister and the U.S. Embassy's charge d'affaires, Kenneth Bleakley.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv's confirmation of the fact that Israel will reopen its embassy in El Salvador is viewed in diplomatic circles to be the result of pressure on the part of Washington. U.S. media sources consider this rapproachement to be the White House's contingency plan for supplying additional arms and advisers to the Salvadoran regime should the Reagan administration continue to encounter problems in Congress.

MEJIA SEEN AS PIECE U.S. NEEDED IN C. A. PUZZLE

PA180449 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 17 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] With the coup that placed General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores in power in Guatemala, U.S. imperialism finally placed the only piece it needed in the Central American puzzle to promote its warmongering policy in the region.

The previous regime, headed by Efrain Rios Montt, only partially satisfied U.S. plans for Central America; Montt was not what the United States wanted for its overall strategy. For Washington, it was not enough to repress the people and fight Guatemalan guerrillas; it also needed Guatemala's support and direct participation in plans to crush the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua. Thus, the United States found the man it needed in Mejia Victores. In effect, the new Guatemalan military regime rises like a bastion of Yankee imperialism in Central America and a new obstacle in the peaceful path of the Contadora Group. We need only to recall that a few hours after the coup, Mejia Victores said that Contadora had nothing to do in Central America and attacked Nicaragua specifically, blaming it without proof for the training of Guatemalan guerrillas.

In remarks to the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Gen Mejia Victores states that Guatemala is suffering from the actions of subversive groups that are trying to destabilize the country with the help of Nicaragua and other countries interested in imposing an ideology, which he described as "alien to the concepts of democracy by which the nations of the isthmus abide".

It just so happens that Mejia Victores is not only one of the cruelest Guatemalan officers but one of the worst liar, who would do anything just to support U.S. plans in Central America. As has been reported, Mejia Victores is directly responsible for the murder of more than 10,000 Guatemalans in the past 2 years and the brutal repression of defenseless people in Alta Verapaz, El Quiche, and El Peten Departments, who have been forced to seek refuge in Mexico.

According to the imperialists, the new Guatemalan dictator has other virtues -- ambiguity and cynicism. The general announced an alleged amnesty and asked the thousands of refugees who are in Mexico to return to the country. But at the same time, he noted that he is determined to fight, without respite, guerrillas who are members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity. To do this, he said, we must first eliminate the bases of support for the rebels. Mejia Victores was referring to the people whom he addressed from his presidential chair, asking them to return to the country because he will respect all their rights. Moreover, Mejia Victores opened a new chapter in the Central American conflict when he announced that he will not recognize Belize's independence. He predicted the possibility of an invasion to occupy the territory of the youngest Central American republic.

In the domestic sphere he immediately met the three basic demands of the Guatemalan enterprises, with the rejection of agrarian reform, the modification of tax reform, and the tax reduction. In addition, he confirmed in their posts the three ministers who directly represent the managerial sectors: the economy, finance, and agriculture ministers. What else can one ask of Mejia Victores to make him a favorite of the Guatemalan oligarchic and military alliance and Yankee imperialism? As the revolutionary forces have announced, new and heavier fighting is near. The enemy is becoming more radical and is being unmasked, and the people will respond to it with the force of their unity and armed struggle.

U.S. CHARGED WITH CONDECA REACTIVATION

FL181443 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1143 GMT 18 Aug 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela from this station's "Revista de la Manana" program and Javier Rodriguez from PRENSA LATINA -- live]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez] The statements made last Tuesday by Honduran Defense Minister General Amilcar Castillo, together with those made yesterday by the Honduran Army chief, brought out the fact that the military coup that took place in Guatemala last week pursued, among other things, the objective of reactivating an old and unpopular U.S. device to facilitate its interference in Central American affairs. We are referring to the obsolete Central American Defense Council, better known by its acronym, CONDECA. The CONDECA was created in 1954 under U.S. guidance. The same year that the CIA overthrew the progressive government of Jacobo Arbenz, the CONDECA was established to repress future popular or progressive actions in Central America. I believe that, in this fashion, the United States has at its disposal a trustworthy means to implement its designs in the region without committing itself directly to sending troops. Naturally, it represents a new danger for the Sandinist revolution because the Reagan administration plans to carry out its aggression against Nicaragua with the CONDECA, now composed of at least three countries; that is, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

[Rodriguez] The announcement by Honduras to reactivate the CONDECA to support the U.S. warmongering policy in Central America is another element that is added to the tension that already exists in Central America. Evidently, this also corresponds to another step of the United States in its warmongering strategy for the region, one that has evoked much international condemnation and rejection. One must remember that the true distinguishing traits of the CONDECA have traditionally been to serve U.S. policy in the area always in opposition to the interests of the Central American people. The CONDECA has never served to guarantee the security of the peoples of Central America, but rather to threaten them further by following the dictates of Washington.

[Fernandez] We must also point out that one of the pretexts for reactivating the CONDECA -- according to the Honduran military -- is to deal with an infiltration of presumed guerrillas from Nicaragua to Hondruas. That is, two important and dangerous elements have been brought together: First, the intention to take this decision precisely to threaten one of the Central American countries -- Nicaragua -- And second, that CONDECA is being reactivated as a result of the danger caused by the presumed entry of 300 guerrillas from Nicaragua to Honduras to destabilize the Honduran Government.

MALMIERCA, THACH MEET AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

FL181203 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1109 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Official talks between the Vietnamese and Cuban delegations have begun at the Cuban Foreign Ministry presided over by the foreign ministers of both countries, Nguyen Co Thach and Isidoro Malmierca. Minutes before beginning the talks, the Cuban foreign minister said that these will help strengthen relations between the Cuban and Vietnamese peoples. He expressed satisfaction for the Vietnamese foreign minister's visit. The international situation, the Nonaligned Movement, and bilateral relations and their situation were discussed in a fraternal spirit and an atmosphere of comaraderie. The two ministers were accompanied by high-ranking officials of their respective organizations. Yesterday, Co Thach laid a wreath at the monument to Jose Marti in Revolution Plaza. He also received the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba while accompanied by the Cuban foreign minister.

SOVIET DEPUTY OIL MINISTER VISITS PINAR DEL RIO

FL181714 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1416 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Ministry of the Petroleum Industry led by Deputy Minister Dzandar Avsimaykhovich Takoyev has visited the oil exploration area north of Pinar del Rio Province. Orlando Lugo Fonte, alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the province, accompanied the visitors in their tour which included several sections of the oil drilling and pumping enterprise, where they exchanged notes on development plans.

EDUCATION MINISTER RETURNS FROM TRIP TO CARACAS

FL171230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of Cuba's Council of Ministers, has returned to Havana after attending the opening of the ninth Pan-American games in Caracas as guest of honor. Fernandez met with former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera and with the Venezuelan ministers of education and intelligence development. Ministers Felipe Montilla and Luis Alberto Machado met Fernandez at the Maiquetia airport last Saturday and bid him farewell on Monday.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BRIEFS

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER -- St Johns, Antigua, Aug 15, CANA -- The Barbados-based new British High Commissioner to the eastern Caribbean Guiles Bullard arrives here on Tuesday to present his credentials to Prime Minister Vere Bird. He is also due to have meetings with Foreign Minister Lester Bird and Governor-General Sir Wilfred Jacobs. Afterwards, the British high commissioner will travel to St Kitts-Nevis on a similar mission. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1544 GMT 15 Aug 83 FL]

DOMINICA

CHARLES ADDS ANOTHER MINISTER TO CABINET

FL182234 Bridgetown CANA in English 1907 GMT 18 Aug 83

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 18, CANA -- Prime Minister Eugenia Charles today added another minister to her cabinet, but the government said she had changed her mind about having a reshuffle. Charles Savarin, general secretary of the Civil Service association (CSA) and a government senator, has been made minister without portfolio. It was the second cabinet change made this month. On August 3 Communications and Works Minister Henry Dyer was sacked for inefficiency and replaced by his immediate junior, Alleyne Carbon. Earlier, Miss Charles had said she planned to reshuffle the cabinet, but a statement issued by her office today said: "No further ministerial changes are being contemplated at this time".

The statement said the dismissal of Dyer had provided the government with an opportunity to have "a searching look at the functioning of all the ministries and perhaps to introduce some changes...for the purpose of even greater efficiency in government." But it noted that following "wide and informative discussions" on the matter, "we came to the conclusion that such wide changes would delay the carrying on of our programme and might even slow down the momentum with which the programmes are already functioning." It added: "For this reason, we decided that such overall changes should await the commencement of a new Parliament."

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE FOLLOWS TAX REDUCTION

FL151607 Bridgetown CANA in English 1910 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Aug 14, CANA -- Oil production levels in Trinidad and Tobago have started to rise in response to a recent government decision to lower taxes payable to the state by petroleum companies operating here, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Patrick Manning has told reporters.

The government last month cut a supplementary petroleum tax on land-operating companies here from 35 to 15 percent in a bid to encourage increased output and stem a tide of retrenchment in the oil sector. Manning said some people previously laid off by service industries in the petroleum sector had been re-employed since the tax changes were introduced. He gave no figures. The minister said further concessions would shortly be announced for oil companies here -- this time off-shore operators.

Petroleum is the backbone of the Trinidad and Tobago economy. Latest official production figures covering January and February this year showed on 11-percent decline to 9.6 million barrels, compared with 10.8 million barrels for the two months in 1982.

GRENADA'S LOUISON DENOUNCES U.S. POLICY

FL180120 Bridgetown CANA in English 2205 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 17, CANA -- Grenada's leftist government, which has described itself as a victim of U.S. policies, today urged the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to draw up plans for countering economic aggression.

The People's Revolutionary Government's (PRG) position was spelled out by Agriculture Minister George Louison, here to attend the current congress of Guyana's ruling party.

Louison said his country "stands firmly behind efforts to have the region recognised as a zone of peace. Peace is fundamental to the question of development."

He added: "My country fully supports the idea of a CARICOM position for dealing with the phenomenon of economic aggression."

He said Grenada had made it clear that "CARICOM must evolve a measure so that we can be able to withstand economic aggression, and we must not allow, at any time, any of our institutions to be subverted by those who try to divide and rule."

Grenada has accused Washington of trying to persuade foreign governments and lending institutions not to provide funds for the construction of an international airport under way here. The PRG has also accused Washington of backing counter-revolutionaries and persons out to damage the island's economy.

RALLY HELD TO PROTEST U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

FL172358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2239 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 17, CANA -- The United States attitude to South and Central America and the Caribbean has taken a beating here, with Surinamese Army Captain Ivan Granoogst accusing Washington of trying to keep people in the region dependent, while representatives from El Salvador and Nicaragua brought charges of fanning unrest.

Addressing a public rally last night, Granoogst said that imperialist forces -- usually a reference to the United States and the U.S.-backed groups -- were "active in Suriname and Guyana as well as in the rest of the region."

He said those forces "are trying to keep the people in servitude and dependence."

Samora Maises, a representative of the guerrilla groups trying to topple the right-wing Washington-based government in El Salvador, told the rally organised by the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, that Washington was intensifying the unrest in El Salvador.

Marco Antonio Valle, a member of the assembly of the Sandinista Front of National Liberation of Nicaragua (FSLN), told newsmen today: "Despite denials by the United States of America, that country is standing ready to attack Nicaragua and is currently waging a political and economic war against the ruling Sandinista Front."

Mr Valle charged the United States with economic aggression against his country and said as recently as last month the U.S. has been making moves to hinder loans from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDE) and a major banking institution in Central America, which he did not name.

COLOMBIA

MILITARY REPORTS 6 FARC REBELS KILLED IN CLASH

PA182115 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1758 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Bucaramanga, Colombia, 18 Aug (DPA) -- Six Colombian guerrillas of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and two soldiers were killed in the past few hours in an armed clash in the municipality of La Belleza in the southern part of the eastern department of Santander.

According to the authorities, two clashes occurred, the first along the San Cayetano trail, where after an exchange of fire two guerrillas were killed and two were captured.

The second skirmish occurred in the corregimiento of La Quitas, where Heriberto Cadena, alias "Robledo Segundo," commander of the 11th FARC Front, was killed along with guerrilla Jairo Ardila.

The authorities stated that a shipment of arms and ammunition used exclusively by the military forces was seized by the army units.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

JORGE WARNS AGAINST VIOLENCE; LEFTISTS DETAINED

PA181310 Paris AFP in Spanish 2322 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 17 Aug (AFP) -- Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco has indicated that ideological freedom is fully guaranteed in the Dominican Republic, but violent protests and incitement to ignore constitutional order will clash with the "natural defense of the state's security bodies."

Speaking to the country yesterday, 16 August, on his first anniversary in government, the president indirectly mentioned a recent operation by the security forces, who detained some 30 leftist leaders. These leaders have been accused of preparing a "destabilization" plan, as well as of organizing an alleged "school for guerrillas."

The government also accused various leftist groups of having fostered violent protests in several towns in the interior in past months. These protests were severely repressed by police forces.

The charges were rejected by the leftist groups and even by other opposition parties, who in turn accused the government of launching a "repressive escalation against the left."

The president said: "The government will respect all protests carried out peacefully and in accordance with the law, but it will not under any circumstances permit violence or incitement to ignore the law."

PERU

INTERIOR MINISTER REJECTS AMNESTY'S CHARGES

PY181718 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Several congressmen interviewed by our radio have categorically rejected the charges made by Amnesty International to the effect that political murders are being committed in Peru.

The interior minister and Senator Javier Alva have also rejected the charges made by Amnesty International against Peru. [Begin recording] [Question] Mr Minister, what is your opinion of a report quoting Amnesty International that the Peruvian authorities are committing political murders?

[Answer] I think the report is totally unfounded because in Peru there is total freedom of the press and of information as well as total respect for human rights.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I believe the reports are part of an international campaign aimed at discrediting Peru, seriously affecting its economy and its development and harming our democratic system, which we are determined to consolidate and strengthen. [end recording]